

Season of Epiphany Worship Resources

As Martin Luther said to a congregation which asked him how they should worship, he could and would give them something, but that *it would be best if they would develop their own order of divine service*. Luther held that the worst thing services could become was to make of them “laws, work and merit; and so depress the faith.”

In fact, regarding his own German Mass and Order of Divine Service, Luther said, “on no account to make of it a compulsory law.”

Also, in his preface to the German Mass Luther emphasized that **the liturgy should be alive, vibrant with the Spirit and “above all” useful in the promotion of Scripture and education of its participants.**

“For the sake of [those participants] we must read, sing, preach, write and compose; and if it could in any wise help or promote their interests, I would have all the bells pealing, and all the organs playing, and everything making noise that could.” (FN: The German Mass and Order of Divine Service, January, 1526 by Martin Luther From: Documents Illustrative of the Continental Reformation, B.J. Kidd, ed., Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1911, p.193-202)

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To aid you in crafting liturgy that is alive and vibrant in your own context, explore these resources! May the Spirit move in you as a worship leader as you seek to lead God’s people in word, song and ritual.

Epiphany

African American Lectionary: Epiphany

Extensive resources from the African-American community on Holy Communion & Epiphany, including: preaching helps, sounds/sights/colours in the passages, hymn, media and print suggestions

<http://www.theafricanamericanlectionary.org/PopupLectionaryReading.asp?LRID=186>

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Comprehensive directory of Epiphany season worship resources including services, slideshows of visual arts, worship planning ideas, articles

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/listing.html?ocCat=epiphany&submit=submit>

Chalking the Door (ELCIC)

A liturgy adaptable for home or communal service, written by Rev. Paul Bosch & Rev. Andre Lavergne

http://www.worship.ca/docs/1_chalk.html

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America: Epiphany

Worship planning tips and family activities

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Worship/Planning/Epiphany.aspx>

Liturgy by Thomas L. Weitzel (ELCA)

Service outline of observing Epiphany *the Sunday before Jan 6th*

<http://www.liturgybytlw.com/Epiph/EpiphDay.html>

Main directory for various services in the Epiphany season (Baptism of our Lord, Presentation of our Lord etc.)

<http://www.liturgybytlw.com/EpiphDir.html>

United Methodist General Board of Discipleship Lectionary Planning Helps for Epiphany

Worship planning notes on lectionary readings, including ideas for worship space and preaching.

This site is especially helpful for worship planning teams as a jumping off point for discussions.

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20110102

Baptism of our Lord

Cokesbury Worship Connection

Weekly lectionary liturgies, prayers, themes and artistic visual elements

<http://www.worshipconnection.cokesbury.com/content.aspx?dyn=1822>

Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources

Paraphrased Scripture, lectionary prayers and sermons from an Australian context

<http://www.laughingbird.net/WeeklyArchives.html>

Lectionary Liturgies

Weekly lectionary resources from Thom Shuman, an American Presbyterian minister

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2008/01/baptism-of-lord.html>

Liturgies Online

Complete worship services with prayers & liturgical elements from a Uniting Church in Australia

http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/liturgies/main/index.php?ch_table=link3&PID=20&SID=&year=A

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church (ELCA) liturgies

Liturgy by Lisa Frenz combining Epiphany & Baptism of our Lord into a single worship service

<http://www.mtcarmellutheran.com/frenz/epiphany2005.htm>

Singing from the Lectionary

Weekly song, hymn and recorded music suggestions and resources for worship - based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Special emphasis is given to justice-oriented and inclusive language options.

<http://lectionarysong.blogspot.com/2010/12/songs-and-hymns-for-baptism-of-christ.html>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Canadian Council of Churches

Resources for planning an ecumenical service, including hymn suggestions, Bible study, adapted for the Canadian context from the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity resources.

http://councilofchurches.ca/en/Our_Faith/week-of-prayer.cfm

Ecclesial Theology

Blog by Steven R. Harmon, Baptist theologian at the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. Links to various resources

<http://ecclesialtheology.blogspot.com/2010/12/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for.html>

Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute

Background information, publicity resources, worship & hymn resources for the Week of Prayer and throughout the year

http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm

Resources on ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue

http://www.geii.org/wpcu_ecumenical_interreligious_understanding.htm

World Council of Churches & Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Short background information and 33 pg PDF “Resources For The Week of Prayer For Christian Unity And Throughout The Year”

<http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-resources/resources/2011/2011-worship-and-background-material.html>

World Interfaith Harmony Week 1st Week of February

Canadian Council of Churches

Written and electronic resources, contact information for Canadian interfaith organizations

<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Interfaith/interfaith-resources.cfm>

Official United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Website

Background information, videos, photographs

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/resources/>